THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is not considering the handling over of Vayudoot to any private party.

[*Translation*]

Rail Link from Deoghar to Dumka and Giridih to Ranchi

2952. SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey has been conducted thrice for laying railway line from Deoghar to Dumka;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to lay railway line in this backward area; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Losses in DESU

2953. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU) has made any request to write off its dues to the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the DESU has been making losses year after year and if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard;

(d) whether there has been a steep fall in the electricity generation by the DESU; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to tide over the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). A proposal was received from DESU for writing off the accumulated dues of the Badarpur Thermal Power Station (under the management of the NTPC) for the period 1.4.1989 to 28.2.1991 amounting to about Rs. 978 Crores. In view of the revision of tariff by DESU with effect from 1.3.1991, the Government has not agreed to the proposal for the present.

(c) DESU has been continuously incurring revenue losses due to the allround increase in the cost of various inputs including the cost of generation/purchase of power without any corresponding increase in its tariff from April, 1985. With a view to improve its financial position, DESU has increased its tariff with effect from 1.3.1991.

(d) No, Sir. The plant load factor of Indraprastha Thermal Station has increased from 44.66% in 1988-89 to 55.59% in 1989-90, 57.57% in 1990-91.

(e) The steps taken to improve the power supply position in Delhi, include strengthening and augmentation of transmission and distribution system at various voltage levels, installation of 3x34.07 MW Waste Heat Recovery Units at the existing Gas Turbines of DESU and a 400 KV Transmission Ring around Delhi. Setting up of a 800 MW Gas based Power Station in Delhi is